

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1903

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROSPECTS

By Frederic J. Haskin.

 The accompanying article on southern California is the first of a series of articles which will be published from the pen of Mr. Frederic J. Haskin, who is easily pre-eminent in the field of travel matters in the United States. Mr. Haskin's articles will include one on Washington, a series on the American invasion of Canada, a couple on Alaska, and about forty on South American countries, which he will visit during the coming year.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Aug. 5.—In speaking of his recent trip, President Roosevelt said, "I went out west and then on to California." The people of this state surely have a corner of the garden of the Union all to themselves. The seven counties comprising southern California are larger than the state of Pennsylvania. This region is called "the land of the afternoon," and I think its men ought to be known as the hopeful sons of the morning. The population here affords a fine example of a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether. It is a fine thing to see people standing up for home and country, and the way these folks crack up California is a caution.

They seem to be totally unmindful of the rest of the \$900,000 Americans who live over the mountains. In the direction the sun comes from. Of course, it's all right for them to become absorbed in the work of building up their own part of the great domain, but it makes the rest of us feel bad to see how they leave us out of their plans and calculations.

One might as well be from the Indian Territory as from the richest state in the Union, as far as impressing a Californian is concerned. The attitude of these dwellers in the land of roses is like the mandate of the children whose parents lived in the largest house on the block—"if you don't play in our yard you can't be in it." Whenever leadership is asserted, there is generally a crowd of youngsters ready to climb the fence and get in the game, and by the same token California is growing.

The Los Angeles chamber of commerce is one of the most aggressive institutions of the kind in the world. It has an exhibit of products covering 10,000 square feet of floor space, and is just preparing to move into a new building, which will cost \$275,000, and where 19,000 feet of floor space will be devoted to a permanent display of California products. At all the expositions during the last fifteen years there has been a tall, nervous man with sharp eyes and bushy gray moustache and goatee, who harangued the crowds with stories about the big vineyards and sweet oranges and tall corn and large pumpkins that grew in the beautiful Tulean land of the sunset. His name is Wiggins—Missionary Wiggins. This man has done a powerful lot of electioneering for California. He is a well-known figure in the state, and has been called a "first-rate booster," and he has several hundred thousand able assistants who remain at home and work on every tenderfoot that happens along.

They certainly do things on a whole-scale scale out this way. The traveler down the coast from San Francisco to Los Angeles rides through thirty-five miles of growing beans. There is one big tract of 3,000 acres owned by one man. A "bean ranch" may sound rather odd, but in order to perpetuate the good name of your old friend of Boston baked bean, California is doing its best. It looks like 600 car loads of this crop every year ought to make the bean eaters feel comfortable, and that is now the annual output.

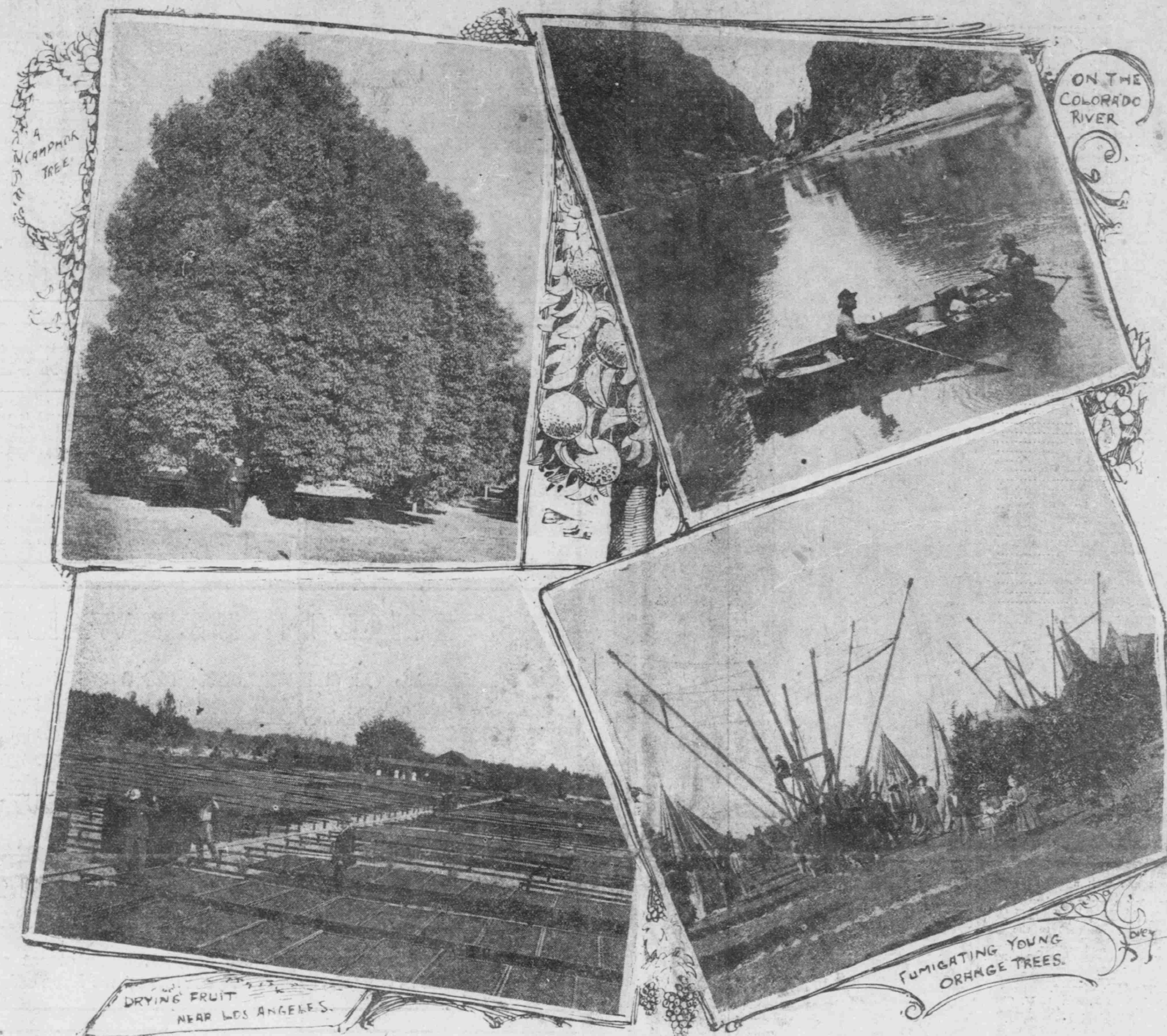
It is a fact that nothing is done by sales in California except good fishing and fails to land a fish anything short of the size of a half-grown horse. He thinks he has had an off day. At Catalina Island, Los Angeles, a woman caught a fish weighing 410 pounds. It was so big around in the thickest part of the body that a man couldn't reach around it with his arms. An ordinary water bucket could be hidden in its open mouth. She had no assistance whatever, and although it was as big as a year-old heifer, landed it with an ordinary pole and line, and it wasn't a very good day for fishing at that.

California is the home of the honey bee, and the paradise of the land o' bees. There are statistics to prove this statement. Last year the state exported 800 car loads of honey. It is not strange that the busy little bee is partial to the favored clime, because flowers grow wild here with the same profusion that smart weed flourishes in other less favored regions. There are 25,000 rooms for rent in Los Angeles. During the greater portion of the year the "rooms all taken" sign flaps idly in the playful southern breeze as it dances from its place on the front porch. The rates at the principal hotel are higher than at the Waldorf-Astoria. Prosperity! Oh, prosperity! In seeking all these eastern tourists, surely thou hast visited upon the California landlord more than his wonted share of earthly blessings!

An eastern woman can be recognized out here because she will carry a parasol, and an eastern man will always have a paper money. That's the only way you can tell them, unless you have a satchel. The prevailing "fash" of a semi-tropical climate is that the natives seek the shady places and take their time in getting to the place to place to another. It isn't so. Every fellow you meet is in a hurry. He plunks his heels down on the sidewalk with as much vim as an eastern roué urbane on a frosty morning. The women out here get mussed up in the bargain-day jams just like they do in the dear old east. A climate that will raise apples and oranges side by side will put ginger in the blood of the people.

California land, which, thirty years ago, went begging at \$5 an acre, now raises this year 20,000 car loads of oranges and lemons. The best of the soil which produces this golden sun-kissed fruit now sells for \$2,000 an acre. This is the highest priced real estate, exclusive of choice city property, in the world. Such high values have given rise to unusual conditions. In the town of Redlands, which has 6,000 inhabitants, there are 192 miles of curbed streets. The country roads are sprinkled with oil, even as the thoroughfares of eastern cities are dampened with water. In Pasadena, with a population of 15,000, there are 112 persons each worth more than a million dollars.

The productiveness of this rare corner of the world is, indeed, a marvel. The estimate for this year is 2,200 cars of vegetables and celery; 750 cars of nuts, 75 cars of raisins and dried fruits, 1,000 cars of canned goods, and all through the long list, including wine, beet sugar, pickled olives and petroleum, the calculations must be made in ear load lots. All forms of life seem to thrive under this balmy, constant sun. The feathered tribe is represented



from humming birds to ostriches, flowers from pansies to giant palms, and fruits and crops include everything from the delicate, luscious pine-apple to the hardy corn of commerce.

The people of southern California are enthusiastic over what is known as the Colorado river project. The plan to construct a dam across the river at that point, and utilize the same for the reclamation of the lands adjacent to it, constitutes the greatest irrigation scheme in the world. It means the restoration of a lost region capable of supporting not less than 300,000 families. The great Aswan dam in Egypt is a small affair when compared to this western undertaking. The project is a small affair when compared to this western undertaking. The project is a small affair when compared to this western undertaking.

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